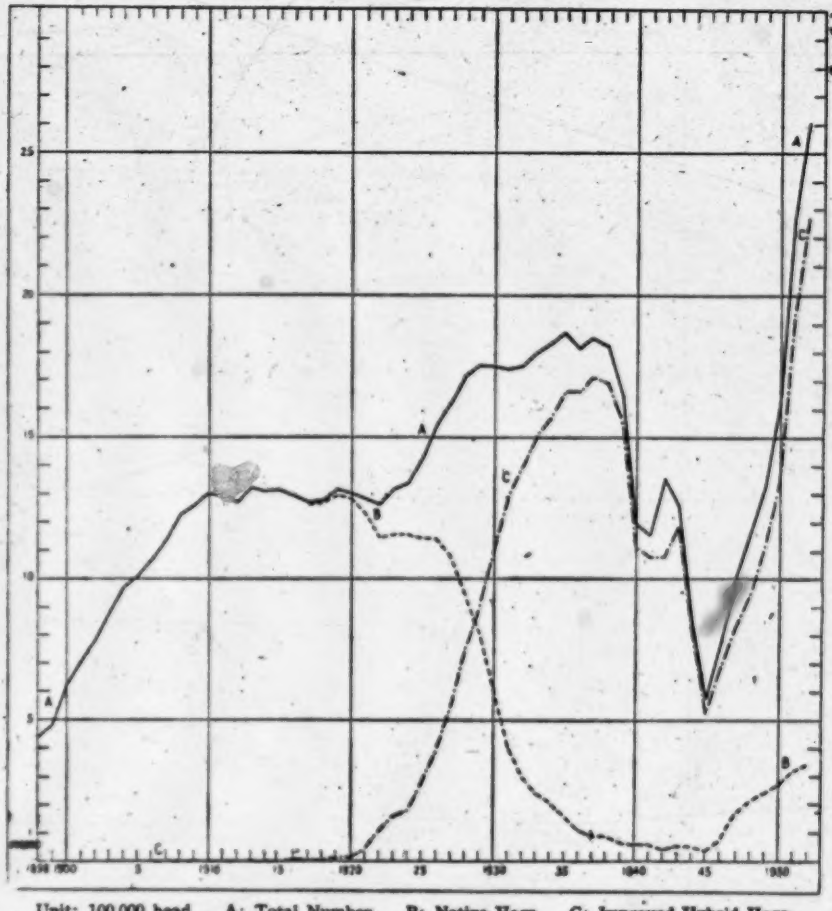
48: Chen E-4 (no date) 1955 AD1 Formosa AD1

farmer received some bean cake for fertilizer. However he was afraid that this new and strange material would hurt his crop, so he threw it away in a grove of bamboo. Later he found that the bamboo around the bean cake had shot up tremendously, and he realized for the first time that commercial fertilizer was useful, and began to use it on his crops. It is not an easy task for the conservative farmer to depart even a little from his traditional way of life, and experiment with new methods. But when once the experiment is begun, new experiences will lead him farther. The use of commercial

Fig. 10: Total Number of Hogs and the Number of Native Hogs and Improved Hybrid Hogs, Taiwan, 1898-1952



Unit: 100,000 head A: Total Number B: Native Hogs C: Improved Hybrid Hogs
Source, 1898-1960, from Animal Resources of Taiwan, pp. 58-59
1951-1952, from Taiwan Agricultural Yearbook, 1952

48: Cnen E-4 (no date) 1955 AD1 Formosa AD1

24 The use of commercial
178 fertilizer spread quickly, and with textiles, became one of the main items of import
239 from Japan.

232 For the improvement of hog raising, the colonial government had imported Berkshire hogs from Japan in 1896, and Yorkshire hogs from England in 1900. After a series of experiments, it was found that the first generation of hybrids between the native hog and Berkshire hog was most suitable to Taiwan, and the promotion of the hybrid was started in 1907. As in other agricultural practice, the traditional way of hog raising was a complicated procedure. Many religious and magical elements were involved in it, and it was not easy for the conservative farmer to adopt the profitable new hybrid. It took more than ten years of government promotion before people became willing to adopt the new hybrid. After 1920 more and more people adopted it, and the number of native hogs declined sharply (Fig. 10). This is the best instance of change in the attitude of the people. A new strain of rice (Ponlai rice) has been extensively cultivated since 1924, and the output of rice has sharply increased.

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118 The 1920's is the turning point in the social history of Taiwan. Epidemics were wiped out, prevention of malaria had improved, the doctors of western medicine exceeded the doctors of the Chinese medicine, and even the cattle pest was wiped out. Political and social movements began for the first time. Primary education spread wider, the conservative farmer began to adopt new strains and new technics, and increase production. Mobility of the people had increased, more bicycles, automobiles, and trucks were used, and the level of living was raised somewhat. It was amid this social milieu that Taiwan's death rate steadily declined while its already teeming population with equal steadiness rose to new heights.